U.S. Appln. S.N. 09/913,643 PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

PATENT

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment rewrites claims 30-33. The 0.2 wt-%/h minimum solubility value is supported by fiber FIB2_A in table 3 on page 15 of the application (three month aging time). Claims 1, 3-7, 16 and 18-33 are pending.

A Petition for Withdrawal of this application pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.313 and a Request for Continued Examination of this application are attached.

It is not believed any fee is required for entry and consideration of this Preliminary Amendment. Nevertheless, the Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 50-1258 in the amount of any such required fee.

Respectfully submitted,

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